

Message Text

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ORIGIN COA-02

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DRAFTED BY COA:PAWELLING:LK

APPROVED BY COA:STUART BLOW

EA/K:MR. NEWSOM

COAST GUARD:CDR LYNN

L/OES:MR. LEITZELL(SUB)

----- 075152

R 180048Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

COMDT COAST GUARD

COMMERCE/

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, KS

SUBJECT: KOREAN CRAB FISHERY IN BERING SEA

TOKYO FOR FISHATT

1. DEPT ON MAY 15 GAVE EMBOFF THE FOLLOWING TALKING
PAPER:

QTE THE KOREAN FISHING VESSEL KUM KONG NR. 12 ON MAY 10,
1974 WAS OBSERVED IN THE BERING SEA IN POSITION 57 DEGREES
40'N, 173 DEGREES 06'W TO HAVE ABOARD LARGE NUMBERS OF
TANNER CRAB POTS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT ASSOCIATED WITH THE
OPERATION OF A TANNER CRAB POT FISHERY. THE CAPTAIN OF
KUM YONG NR. 12 STATED IN RESPONSE TO A U.S. COAST GUARD
INQUIRY THAT HE HAD BEEN LICENSED BY THE GROK TO CONDUCT
A CRAB FISHERY IN THE BERING SEA. THE CAPTAIN OF THE KUM
YONG NR. 12 WAS INFORMED THAT IF HE CONDUCTED A CRAB POT

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FISHERY FOR KING OR TANNER CRAB APPERTAINING TO THE U.S.
HE WOULD BE IN VIOLATION OF U.S. LAW, WOULD BE ARRESTED

AND HIS VESSEL SEIZED, AND WOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE FULL BREADTH OF PENALTIES PROVIDED UNDER THE LAW.

THE U.S.G. HAS REPEATEDLY COMMUNICATED TO THE GROK ITS VIEW CONCERNING THE EXCLUSIVE U.S. RIGHT OF EXPLOITATION

OF CONTINENTAL SHELF FISHERY RESOURCES (CSFR) APPERTAINING TO THE US. AS RECENTLY AS JAN 18 AND MAY 2 THE SECSTATE AND THE ACTING SECSTATE IN THEIR NOTES TO THE GROK AND TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS REVIEWED THE US POSITION ON THE EXCLUSIVE NATURE OF US CSFR. THE ACTING SECRETARY'S MAY 2 NOTE STATES THAT US CSFR RIGHTS WILL BE ENFORCED TO THE FULLEST EXTENT AND THAT SUCH ENFORCEMENT SHALL BE CONDUCTED WITH REGARD TO ALL US CSFR. THIS POLICY IS EQUALLY APPLICABLE TO KING AND TANNER CRAB APPERTAINING TO THE US FOUND IN THE BERING SEA.

THE USG INTENDS TO FULLY ENFORCE ITS EXCLUSIVE CSFR RIGHTS. IF ANY KOREAN VESSEL CONDUCTS A FISHERY FOR CRAB OR OTHER US CSFR, SUCH A FISHING OPERATION WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY AFFECT OTHER ELEMENTS OF OUR OVERALL RELATIONS. ENDQTE.

2. THE COAST GUARD BOARDING PARTY FOUND APPROX 500 TANNER CRAB POTS, CARDBOARD BOXES, FISH GEAR AND DECK COOKING POT BUT NO CRAB EXCEPT FOR FEW TANNER CRAB REMNANTS WHICH STATED TO BE FROM SMALL AMOUNT OF CRAB TAKEN FOR CREW CONSUMPTION. MASTER STATED THAT HE WAS OPERATING INDEPENDENTLY OF OTHER KS VESSELS TRAWLING IN AREA. OBSERVATIONS SUPPORT MASTER'S STATEMENT THAT HE HAD NOT COMMENCED COMMERCIAL CRABBING. PHOTOGRAPHS OF ROK LICENSE ENROUTE WASH DC. F/V REPORTEDLY RETURNING TO KOREA.

3. DEPTOFF EXPRESSED HOPE THAT ROK NOT LICENSING VESSELS FOR FISHING CRAB APPERTAINING TO US, BECAUSE IF THAT WERE THE CASE, SITUATION WOULD BECOME VERY UNCOMFORTABLE; AND THAT THERE WAS NO ALTERNATIVE TO FULL ENFORCEMENT OF US LAW BY COAST GUARD. EMBOFF STATED INTENTION TO TRANSMIT TALKING PAPER TO SEOUL AND AWAIT REPORT OF INVESTIGATION.

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4. SEOUL: INFORM MR. BERNARD OXMAN OF THIS TELEGRAM UPON HIS ARRIVAL ON MAY 26 FOR LOS DISCUSSIONS. RUSH

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